

From: Alfred Chiesa
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 6:42pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

Enclosed in this e-mail are my thoughts on the Microsoft antitrust case.

Regards,

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My comments are going to be short and to the point. I have been a long time Microsoft software user and switched about 7 years ago to Apple when I started to realize how they competed with their competitors in the software industry. This was about the time when Netscape was the standard web browser and sold their browser on line for \$29.95. I was very pleased with the product and thought the price was fair for a yearly subscription price. Then Microsoft launched its web browser Internet Explorer, IE. IE was not as developed as Netscape was, at the time, but the intriguing thing about IE was that Microsoft was able to offer it for free. I downloaded the browser and began to use it and before you know it, I let my Netscape subscription lapse and became a dedicated IE user. Then a few years had passed and I missed my Netscape browser. They had discontinued development of the product, made the program open source, and eventually sold it to AOL. The current offering is not as robust as the earlier versions and now I have been trying to find an alternative to IE but no one has a browser that is capable of running all of the necessary plug-ins needed to view today's graphic intense websites.

I believe that since Microsoft has an obligation as a company to promote competition and innovation in the industry. Not by acquiring and incorporating other companies technology but making available their software products to other platforms. If people choose to use Linux, Solaris, or Macintosh as their platform of choice, they should make available their software to the users of these platforms. This, in my mind, would allow individuals to lessen their dependency on using only Microsoft products and promoting growth in these alternative platforms, for example Linux, and would allow developers to compete in furnishing products for this emerging market. As long as Microsoft makes its programs a "Windows Only" solution, nothing in this industry will change. You will see more innovative technology fall by the wayside, like the Be OS, that primarily failed because of the lack of applications.

I am pleased with my choice of switching to an alternative operating platform, Apple, and I am writing this plea on a Microsoft product written specifically for the operating environment. I hope that in future years I will be able to make the same choice, maybe with a new and even more impressive system, because like in all things in nature diversity is what fosters new and innovative changes to happen